Public Works (1914) Department.

G.O. No. 1419

DATED 23.3.1914.

The Notes
in this G.O. have been printed.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Supply of water in the Periyar Irrigation System—Recording Notes connected with the address presented to H.E. by the Madura-Ramnad People's association in Feb. 1914 re-the difficulties experienced in regard to.

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23/3

~~Indexed.~~

P. W. 9.
2,000—2-10-12.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

IRRIGATION.

Recd.	1914.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O. No. 141 I., 23rd March 1914.

Supply of water in the Periyar Irrigation System

Recording notes connected with the address presented to His Excellency by the Madura-Rāmnād People's Association in February 1914 regarding the difficulties experienced in regard to —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Irrigation.

READ—the following paper :—

Notes connected with the address presented to His Excellency the Governor by the Madura and Ramnad People's Association regarding the difficulties experienced in regard to supply of water in the Periyar irrigation system.

Order—No. 141 I., dated 23rd March 1914.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

W. M. ELLIS, Col., R.E.,
Ag. Secretary to Government, P.W.D.,
Irrigation Branch.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.

Forwarded to the

(By Order.)

Deputy Registrar.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 141 I., DATED 23RD MARCH 1914.

[SUBJECT.—*His Excellency the Governor's Tour—February* 1914.]

Address to be presented by the Madura and Rāmnād People's Association.

[*Subject.*—Supply of water in the Periyār irrigation system.]

* * * * *

12. An enquiry into the existing grievances of the Periyār irrigation system is essential. The supply in the branches, distributaries and sluices should be fixed by the Engineer and the Revenue Divisional officer in consultation with the ryots of the village with reference to ayacut under each distributary and the same should be published for the information of the ryots and a daily report in duplicate of the sufficiency of supply in the area under each item be called for with countersignatures of some big pattadars from the subordinate officers of the Public Works Department by the Engineer and the Collector.

* * * * *

Collector's Note.

This is the proposal made in a resolution put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Rama Ayyangar which, I understand, will be discussed at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

Secretariat Note.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

As regards Periyār irrigation, the address deals with the following points successively :—

(*a*) Asks for a remedy of existing grievances.

What the grievances are is not distinctly specified, but from the context, it is presumed they have reference to the further points noted on below.

(*b*) The supply in the branches and distributaries should be fixed.

The suggestion here is that the requirements of supply are always the same and that the water to give this supply to each channel is always available. Both these assumptions are altogether erroneous. The supplies which it is desirable to pass into distributaries are variable and vary with the conditions of recent rainfall—the quantity of water impounded in the auxiliary tanks, under which 55 per cent. of the whole area is fed. The supplies also vary with the stage of the crop, more water being required at the transplantation period than at any other time.

Again the quantity of water available is liable to variation.

The supplies are derived from—

(1) The Periyār lake.
(2) The natural flow of the Vaigai and its tributaries.

During periods of drought, the latter source fails and it is not possible to give from the former the supplies which can be passed into the Periyār system when the natural flow of the Vaigai is abundant.

Again in times of good rainfall over the irrigated area, opportunity has to be taken to economise the water of the lake by shutting down the outlet sluices.

The problem of distribution is a complicated one and any attempt to lay down fixed or even proportionately varying supplies to be passed to each channel can only result in a great diminution in the efficiency of distribution and consequent greatly increased failure and deficiency of outturn of crops in years, like the past year, in which the rainfall has been deficient. The system of fixed supplies is quite impracticable.

Under the existing system the distribution is regulated for the more important branches under the orders of the Executive Engineer. There are numerous telephone stations established in the irrigated tract and the Executive Engineer and the Sub-Divisional officer are kept informed daily by telephone of the gauge readings at the Periyār lake, the main canal at Peranai, and all the more important points of distribution and sends each his orders for any modification necessary in regulation and distribution of water.

Prompt action is an essential in regulation and is secured by the above means.

The suggested regulation by means of daily reports for each distributary countersigned by a big pattadar connotes great delay and is obviously unworkable. Such a system would involve the maximum of delay and the maximum of friction. Under the existing system the supplies passed to each minor channel are checked by the amount passed in at the head of the branch, and as the total amounts of water passed out must approximately equal that passed into a branch, a check on the actual distribution is possible; for any great excess passed to one distributary will involve deficit to another and *vice versâ*.

It is claimed that during the past year the distribution has been most carefully and efficiently regulated by Mr. O'Brien, the Executive Engineer. It has been a year of very deficient rainfall—

(1) in the irrigated tract,
(2) in the valleys of the Vaigai and Suriliar,
(3) in the basin of the Periyār lake.

The quantities stored in the lake were very much below the seasonal average and issues had to be curtailed in October on this account. The supplies of water passed into the main canal have this year been smaller than usual, while the rainfall has been very deficient. In spite of this, the very careful attention given to regulation has had the result of enabling the cultivators to successfully raise their wet crops and the area of failure has been almost negligible.

All the above formed the subject-matter of a resolution moved in the last Legislative Council meeting (27th January 1914) by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Rama Ayyangar.

In replying, Sir Harold Stuart pointed out the impracticability of giving fixed supplies to channels, while he commended the successful distribution of water by the Executive Engineer during the past season.

He stated that cases of difficulties in supply as regards specific channels and areas should be referred to the local officers to devise remedies. He, however, stated that the Government undertook to make an enquiry into the adequacy of water-supplies in the Periyār, in relation to the requirements of the double crop area. On this assurance the resolution was withdrawn.

W. M. ELLIS—29-1-14.

Under Secretary—

Four copies each of the notes on—
(i) supply of water in the Periyār irrigation system
(ii) the Ghiriar project and
(iii) the Papanasam reservoir project

are put up and they may be sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor. Two sets of the note on (ii) are sent, as in inserting the Collector's note subsequently received from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, the Press have by mistake printed on both sides.

In the copies of the note on (iii) now sent, the Collector's note has not been inserted. Copies of the note with the Collector's note inserted will be sent to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor on receipt from Press.

2. Two sets each of four copies of the note on the "present system of regulating the flow at Peranai" are being sent separately with a demi-official. In this case also two sets are sent as the second set was printed on both the sides.

A.V.S.—5-2-14.

F. E. Morgan—5-2-14.

To the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor u.o.

Office of the Private Secretary to
His Excellency the Governor.

Returned with the following extract from His Excellency's reply:—

"As regards the difficulties connected with the distribution of the water of the "Periyār system, the whole question was fully discussed recently in the Legislative "Council and enquiry into the adequacy of the supply for the double-crop area was "promised. It is therefore not necessary for me to say more on this occasion."

C. B. Cotterell—11-3-14.

To the Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

Public Works Department
(Irrigation Branch).

Under Secretary—

The Hon'ble Mr. Gillman is being deputed to undertake the promised enquiry alluded to in His Excellency's reply above. No action on this case seems necessary. A draft order recording the notes is submitted, which, if approved, may be sent to Revenue for perusal before issue.

A.V.S.—15-3-14.

P.K.S.—16-3-14.

F.E.M.—16-3-14.

To the Revenue Department u.o.

Revenue Department.

Under Secretary—

The file may be perused and returned with thanks.

B.M.R.—18-3-14.

R.S.—19-3-14.

H. A. Watson—19-3-14.

To the Public Works Department (Irrigation) u.o.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(IRRIGATION BRANCH).

Issue.

The order need not be placed on Editors' Table.

A.V.S.—20-3-14.

F.E.M.—21-3-14.

[Issued as G.O. No. 141 I., dated 23rd March 1914.]

Sectt. II—10 (a)—7,000—4-13.

DEPARTMENT.

Supply of water in the Periyar Irrigation System

Recording Notes connected with the address presented to H.E. the Govr by the Madura & Ramnad Peoples' Association in Feb 1914 re the difficulties experienced in regard to ——.

READ AGAIN G.O. No. ......, dated ...... 191 .

" " " " ......, " ...... 191 .

READ ALSO :—

C. No. ......, From the ......, No. ......, dated ...... 191 .

" " ......, Notes connected with the address presented to H.E. the Govr ~~in Feb 1914~~ by the Madura & Ramnad Peoples' Association re the difficulties experienced in regard to supply of water in the Periyar Irrigation System ...... 191 .

" " ......, " " ...... 191 .

ORDER. No. 1419, dated 23.3. 1914

Recorded

15-3-1914

16.3.14

To the Chief Engr for Irrigation with extra Rev Depts

Need not come in Ms

R's verbal order taken

23/3

Not for E.T.

Gn 2109/14
R 26/1/914

PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR MADRAS

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Madras,

24th January 1914.

My dear Ellis,

I am sending you the enclosed extracts from addresses which are to be presented to His Excellency during his forthcoming tour to Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts. His Excellency will be glad if you will have notes prepared on the several points raised, and would like to have the Secretariat note on each subject printed separately half margin and on one side of the paper. Four copies of the printed note will be sufficient. Will you please send these by the 5th February?

Yours sincerely,

C Bl[illegible]

The Hon'ble Colonel W.M.Ellis, R.E.,

Secretary to Government, P.W.D.,

Irrigation Branch,

Chepauk, Madras.

Extract from an address to be presented to His Excellency the Governor by the Madura and Ramnad People's Association, at Madura.

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12. An enquiry into the existing grievances of the Periyar irrigation system is essential. The supply in the branches, distributaries and sluices should be fixed by the Engineer and the Revenue Divisional Officer in consultation with the ryots of the village with reference to ayacut under each distributary and the same should be published for the information of the ryots and a daily report in duplicate of the sufficiency of supply in the area under each item be called for with countersignatures of some big pattadars from the subordinate officers of the P.W.D. by the Engineer and the Collector. In the present state of the Periyar irrigated area, it is quite undesirable to sell or assign any more waste land or tank beds for cultivation by auction or otherwise. The tanks, however small in extent, are necessary for man and beast during the time that the Periyar water ceases to flow in the plains and are also indispensably necessary as supplementary sources of irrigation and for raising seedlings for perennial crops before the Periyar water is let down. Further, in the present state of Periyar cultivation, any re-settlement resulting in an increase of kist will be ruinous to the cultivators and should not be permitted. The rules relating to levy of water-rates for irregular irrigation are working as a preventive measure with great hardship to innocent persons, all the ryots under a distributary being punished alike for the faults of a few. The above rules and the rules relating to the levy of penal assessment for encroachments on assessed Government waste may be so modified as to put an end to irregular irrigation and encroachment by preventive measure at the earliest opportunity discouraging as far as possible the collection of large amount of revenue as penal assessment.

3

Collector's note.

x This is the proposal made in a resolution put forward by the Hon'ble Mr. K.Rama Ayyangar which, I understand, will be discussed at the next meeting of the Legislative Council.

* I have proposed a stoppage of general sales and I understand that Government have accepted my proposal.

ø As a result of representations made to Sir John Atkinson at a Conference which he held in Madura in April 1913, attempts are being made to deal with the difficulty complained of. A report has been sent to Government (Collector's letter No. 570 dated 15th August 1913) but no orders have been received. My impression, as there given, was that the entire abandonment of the system of collective penalties would be difficult. The imposition of such penalties is rarer now than it was a few years ago.

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